



AETNA BETTER HEALTH®  
Coverage Policy/Guideline

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Effective Date:	12/5/2024	Last Review Date:	11/18/2024
Applies to:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Jersey		

**Intent:**

The intent of this policy/guideline is to provide information to the prescribing practitioner outlining the coverage criteria for Tremfya under the patient's prescription drug benefit.

**Description:**

FDA-Approved Indications

- A. Treatment of adult patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis (PsO) who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy - (Reference the Biological Response Modifiers (BRMs) in the Treatment of Plaque Psoriasis NJ Protocol)
- B. Treatment of adult patients with active psoriatic arthritis (PsA)
- C. Treatment of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) in adults

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

**Applicable Drug List:**

Non-Preferred: Tremfya

**Policy/Guideline:**

**Documentation for all indications:**

The patient is unable to take a preferred adalimumab product OR Enbrel and ONE additional preferred product (Otezla or Rinvoq), where indicated, for the given diagnosis due to a trial and inadequate treatment response or intolerance, or a contraindication.

Documentation is required for approval.

**Documentation:**

**Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)**

- A. Initial requests: Chart notes, medical record documentation, or claims history supporting previous medications tried (if applicable), including response to therapy. If therapy is not advisable, documentation of clinical reason to avoid therapy.
- B. Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response.

**Ulcerative colitis (UC)**

- A. Continuation requests: Chart notes or medical record documentation supporting positive clinical response to therapy or remission.

**Prescriber Specialty:**

This medication must be prescribed by or in consultation with ONE of the following:

- A. Psoriatic arthritis: rheumatologist or dermatologist
- B. Ulcerative colitis: gastroenterologist



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### **Criteria for Initial Approval:**

#### **A. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)**

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members who have previously received a biologic or targeted synthetic drug indicated for active psoriatic arthritis.
2. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for treatment of active psoriatic arthritis when either of the following criteria is met:
  - i. Member has mild to moderate disease and meets one of the following criteria:
    - a. Member has had an inadequate response to methotrexate, leflunomide, or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine) administered at an adequate dose and duration.
    - b. Member has an intolerance or contraindication to methotrexate or leflunomide (see Appendix), or another conventional synthetic drug (e.g., sulfasalazine).
    - c. Member has enthesitis.
  - ii. Member has severe disease.

#### **B. Ulcerative colitis (UC)**

1. Authorization of 12 months may be granted for adult members for treatment of moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.

### **Continuation of Therapy:**

#### **A. Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for ALL adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for psoriatic arthritis AND who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity OR improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in ANY of the following from baseline:

1. Number of swollen joints
2. Number of tender joints
3. Dactylitis
4. Enthesitis
5. Axial disease
6. Skin and/or nail involvement
7. Functional status
8. C-reactive protein (CRP)

#### **B. Ulcerative colitis**

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for ALL adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis and who achieve or maintain remission.

Authorization of 12 months may be granted for ALL adult members (including new members) who are using the requested medication for moderately to severely active



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ulcerative colitis AND who achieve or maintain a positive clinical response as evidenced by low disease activity OR improvement in signs and symptoms of the condition when there is improvement in ANY of the following from baseline:

1. Stool frequency
2. Rectal bleeding
3. Urgency of defecation
4. C-reactive protein (CRP)
5. Fecal calprotectin (FC)
6. Appearance of the mucosa on endoscopy, computed tomography enterography (CTE), magnetic resonance enterography (MRE), or intestinal ultrasound
7. Improvement on a disease activity scoring tool (e.g., Ulcerative Colitis Endoscopic Index of Severity [UCEIS], Mayo score)

#### **Other Criteria:**

For all indications: Member has had a documented negative tuberculosis (TB) test (which can include a tuberculosis skin test [TST] or an interferon-release assay [IGRA])\* within 6 months of initiating therapy for persons who are naïve to biologic drugs or targeted synthetic drugs associated with an increased risk of TB.


\* If the screening testing for TB is positive, there must be further testing to confirm there is no active disease (e.g., chest x-ray). Do not administer the requested medication to members with active TB infection. If there is latent disease, TB treatment must be started before initiation of the requested medication.

For all indications: Member cannot use the requested medication concomitantly with any other biologic drug or targeted synthetic drug for the same indication.

#### **APPENDIX**

##### **Examples of Clinical Reasons to Avoid Pharmacologic Treatment with Methotrexate, Cyclosporine, Acitretin, or Leflunomide**

1. Clinical diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, alcoholic liver disease, or other chronic liver disease
2. Drug interaction
3. Risk of treatment-related toxicity
4. Pregnancy or currently planning pregnancy
5. Breastfeeding
6. Significant comorbidity prohibits use of systemic agents (e.g., liver or kidney disease, blood dyscrasias, uncontrolled hypertension)
7. Hypersensitivity
8. History of intolerance or adverse event

	
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### Approval Duration and Quantity Restrictions:

Initial and Renewal Approval: 12 months

### Quantity Level Limit:

Medication	Standard Limit	Exception Limit
Tremfya 100mg/mL prefilled syringe/One-press injector	1 syringe/injector per 60 days	2 syringes/injectors per 30 days
Tremfya 200mg/2mL prefilled syringe/pen	1 syringe/pen per 30 days	N/A
Tremfya 200mg/20mL single-dose vial	N/A	60 mL (3 vials) per 60 days

### FDA-Recommended Dosing:

#### Psoriatic Arthritis:

- Loading doses: 100 mg at week 0 and 4
- Maintenance dose: 100 mg every 8 weeks

#### Ulcerative Colitis, Induction:

- 200 mg at week 0, week 4, and week 8

#### Ulcerative Colitis, Maintenance:

- 100 mg at week 16, and every 8 weeks thereafter, or 200 mg at week 12, and every 4 weeks thereafter

\* Coverage up to the exception limits may be provided with prior authorization

### References:

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